

*John A. Boehner*

[REDACTED]  
West Chester, OH 45069-4676

October 22, 2019

Hon. Vernon S. Broderick  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Broderick,

I write to you today regarding former US Representative Chris Collins (R-NY), in connection with *United States v. Christopher Collins*.

I have known Chris Collins both as his Speaker, and as his neighbor. Chris was elected to the United States Congress during my time as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. More recently, he has been my neighbor on Marco Island in Florida.

I have always operated with the belief that if you do the right things for the right reasons, good things will usually happen. I am writing this letter on behalf of Chris Collins because I believe it's the right thing to do.

I know Chris as a family man who has a passion for his country, his wife, his children and grandchildren. We served together in Congress during challenging times for our country. In times like that, you get a glimpse of who people really are. You see their character at their core. Chris was my friend at times when he didn't have to be my friend, and I'm sure he took some political heat for supporting me as Speaker at a time when supporting me wasn't popular. He is a person of loyalty, and courage.

After I left Congress, Chris and I stayed in touch, as neighbors and ex-colleagues. I know this experience has been mortifying for him. I continue to believe he is a good man who loves his family and his country.

As human beings, we make mistakes and errors of judgment, and we have to accept the consequences that come with our mistakes and our errors of judgment. Chris, I believe, would be the first to agree with this. I write today simply in hopes of sharing my experience with Chris as a fellow American and friend.

Thank you for your service, and for considering my note.

Sincerely,

*John Boehner*

John Boehner  
Member of Congress (1991-2015)  
Speaker, US House of Representatives (2011-2015)

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Hon. Vernon S. Broderick  
United States District Judge Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

Re: United States v. Christopher Collins

Dear Judge Broderick:

There's a saying in politics attributed, some believe incorrectly, to Harry Truman: "if you want a friend in politics, get a dog." I have never, ever lived by that. Our political team is close. We are a tight knit group. It's a small circle. We've won together, lost together, shared great times and were there for each other during some rough spots as well.

I first met Chris because of politics when he ran for Congress in 1998. We stayed in touch following that race, and he hired me to be his political spokesman years later. Chris was also a professional mentor to me. We both ran for elected office in 2012, he campaigning for the House of Representatives and I ran for Erie County Comptroller.

If you ever want to get to know someone, serve as their spokesman or hit the campaign trail with them. Professionally as his spokesman, it was my job to know everything about Chris. His likes, dislikes, personality and core beliefs. Driving to events, many rides lasting more than an hour, our conversations rarely ventured into politics. We talked about family. He was most happy sharing stories about Mary Sue, Cam and Caitlin, all of his children, even more so about grandchildren.

Chris always drove the conversation about family. How's [redacted] (my daughter)? How is she doing in school? Chris came to her class to read and hosted them during a trip to Washington D.C. Every time he saw my daughter, he gave her a hug; often times telling her he loved her, and greeted her like his own family. That meant a lot to me.

As his spokesman and friend, I would often think "I wish people outside of our inner circle knew the guy that I got to know." Quite frankly, it was professionally frustrating because Chris did not want me to share positive, private details that would have helped him in the public eye. All of the stories about his charitable works, the good he did for others, even private anecdotes that would have helped his image politically, he asked me to keep quiet. For Chris, he wasn't concerned about scoring points in the public arena. He specifically asked me to not to share our conversations about his philanthropy, charitable works and good deeds. For him, he put service over self because it was the right thing to do.

One example is when we drove together through my old neighborhood on the East Side of Buffalo, an impoverished section of the City ravaged by poverty. Chris drove by an apartment building near Broadway and Fillmore, a stone's throw from where I grew up, and he told me at one time he owned or managed it. He got a touch angry talking about a previous owner, how shoddy work and disrepair left some of those living there with intermittent heat and electricity during cold, winter months.

Chris spoke with pride how with his engineering background, while working with professional electricians and others, he helped restore regular heat, hot water and electricity to those living there.

Chris got in there himself, got his hands dirty so to speak, providing essential services for the working poor of his building. He shared how great it made him feel to see families stay warm in the winter, to be able to cook, to have the ability to simply use a hot plate again. He was proud to restore utilities for struggling families, and for helping restore their dignity when others didn't do the right thing.

Pertaining to public policy, in his heart, Chris did what he thought was the right thing for others, regardless of how it impacted him professionally. When elected Erie County Executive, he donated his salary to charity and accepted \$1 per year until he was able to right the fiscal health of our government. Previously the government provided two, centrally located health care clinics that made it difficult for the poor from all corners of our large county to access. Chris put those health services out to public bid with the goal of making it easier for the working poor to access health care at multiple locations, cutting back on travel time for those having to use public transportation with their children.

Many of his political decisions were not popular. Behind closed doors, Chris never asked "how will this decision hurt me politically" or "how will this impact my poll numbers?" At the end of every discussion about a decision, Chris's only determining factor was "is this best for the taxpayer?" It made my job challenging at times, truth be told. But it taught me an important lesson about making personal and professional decisions. His example is one I don't forget. Those actions echo a quote I wrote on a large whiteboard in my office that I look at every day: "there is no right way to do the wrong thing."

This leads us to the purpose of my letter to you. In this one instance that lasted six minutes, Chris did not do the right thing. He has accepted responsibility for his action, which is serious in the eyes of the law. I wholeheartedly understand the gravity of that one action. Now, judgment lies solely with you pertaining to sentencing.

When doing so, please weigh the good deeds done over many years of public service, a lifetime of service to the Boy Scouts of America and many other great causes, compared to the serious lapse of judgment during one phone call. I respectfully ask you to reflect on a long life devoted to family, charitable causes and public service, compared to one brief but serious error in judgment.

I thank you in advance for taking this into consideration and I thank you very much for allowing this submission to your court.

Sincerely,



Hon. Stefan I. Mychajliw Jr.  
Erie County Comptroller

Karen Van Houtte  
[REDACTED]  
Clarence NY 14031  
[REDACTED]

October 23, 2019

Hon. Vernon S. Broderick  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

Subject: United States of America Vs. Christopher Collins

Dear Judge Broderick:

I write today to share my support of Mr. Christopher Collins.

About a year ago, my 44 year old brother, was gravely ill and living overseas. He had married Filipino woman in Alabama in 2009. While he knew he needed to be back home for proper medical care, he would not come home without his wife despite being deathly ill. He had applied for a spousal Visa for her but had not completed the process when he went overseas. She had no US Visa to travel on a medical flight with him.

Neither I nor my family knew where to turn. My family was not one that required assistance from the Government. We have always been a family that served our Country.

I reached out to several government officials, including Mr. Chris Collins. Mr. Collins was the only one that offered assistance. I am eternally grateful that he did his best for me and my family through a horribly difficult time.

Despite all our efforts, my brother David passed away in September of 2018 in Baguio City, Philippines. We were then tasked with figuring out how to enable his wife to bring his remains home. Still, Mr. Collins' office stood by us and offered support and guidance.

As we were preparing to welcome his wife and making arrangements to lay David to rest, Mr. Collins office called and asked if his schedule permits would the family allow Mr. Collins to attend the services. When I spoke to my parents about it, my Dad said to tell him we would be honored. I received the same response from each family member I asked. The controversy had no bearing on how my family and I felt about Mr. Collins.

Page 2 – Karen Van Houtte

Rachel, my brothers' wife arrived with my brothers remains on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. My Dad passed away on February 21, 2019.

My father, Kenneth, was a medic serving with the Marines and served in Viet Nam. He was always the protector of our family. I truly believe he felt he had to go and make sure that whatever is on the other side of life, he would go with his son. I know after David passed, I felt that one of us needed to be with him. I know I am not the only one in my family that felt that way. I am grateful to my Dad for protecting us all, at any cost.

I am also eternally grateful to Mr. Collins. He reached out his hand when neither I nor my family knew where to turn.

Sincerely,

Karen Van Houtte

On Behalf of the Family of two decorated war veterans:

Kenneth Raymond Fowler, Veteran Navy Corpsman Serving the US Marines

And His Son,

David Scott Fowler, Veteran US Army Apache Instructor Pilot



October 25, 2019

Ho. Vernon S. Broderick  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

RE: United States v. Christopher Collins

Dear Judge Broderick:

As a personal friend of Chris Collins and his wife Mary for fifteen years, I have also had the pleasure of supporting him during his various political campaigns and afterwards as he served as our Erie County Executive and later in Congress. I am deeply saddened by his current predicament and feel that his actions regarding the investments in Innate Immunotherapeutics were out of character. I know he had high hopes that the long development period for what seemed to be a promising MS treatment would prove efficacious and help patients cope with this disease, which is especially prevalent in our western New York area.

Chris is a dedicated father and husband and a very industrious individual. He has spent an inordinate amount of time out in the community and at numerous charity functions where he has received honors and awards for his community service and contributions. I've introduced him a number of times at such functions as the Muscular Dystrophy Association annual dinner. He's a kind person and a thoughtful man and has always been supportive of my own philanthropy and job growth endeavors at Calspan. He really is and has been a positive force in our local economy and in the fabric of our society.

That said, one must follow our laws and I know that Chris is very remorseful for what I see as a singular bad judgment call when he learned that the Innate drug trial had failed. However, he has been an upstanding citizen of our country all his life and I respect him for his service to Erie County and in Congress. Having taught collegiate economics and business courses for many years, I am very much aware that the integrity of our financial system and equity markets is of paramount importance and I'm sure that Chris' reaction was borne of emotion and not his usual pragmatic "engineering" business good sense.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for Chris Collins.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Yurtchuk". It is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

John R. Yurtchuk  
Chairman

PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress  
Second District, New York

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERYSUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
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## FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND CAPITAL MARKETSSUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MONETARY POLICY

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3202**

October 28, 2019

Hon. Vernon S. Broderick  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Court House  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: *United States v. Christopher Collins***

Dear Judge Broderick,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Chris Collins for your consideration when deciding what is an appropriate sentence for Mr. Collins. While I have no personal knowledge of and have had no personal dealings with Chris Collins regarding any aspect of this case, I have known Chris for almost ten years.

I first met Chris in 2010 when he was Erie County Executive and considering a run for Lt. Governor of New York State and I was considering running for the United States Senate. Our contact then, while minimal, was cordial and friendly. After Chris was elected to Congress in 2012, however, we worked together on a regular basis until his recent resignation. During all of my dealings with Chris I always found him to be honest, straightforward and a strong advocate for New York even when it did not directly affect his district or greatly benefit him politically.

I particularly appreciated his strong advocacy, as a member of the key Energy and Commerce Committee, for 9/11 Victims Healthcare legislation. While there are 9/11 victims throughout the State and Country, the overwhelming majority are from downstate New York and northern New Jersey, far from Chris Collins's northern New York district. Congressman Collins played a pivotal role in the passage of this legislation in 2015 as well as supporting the 9/11 Victims Compensation fund legislation in 2019. From my perspective these instances typified the integrity and cooperation which Chris demonstrated during his time in Congress.

I had the opportunity to meet Chris's wife, Mary Sue, on a number of occasions including when I spoke at an event for Chris in Buffalo during the 2016 campaign. His concern for his wife and children was evident then as well as in the casual conversations he and I would have either in Congress or at New York delegation dinners. It was always my belief that Chris Collins's dedication to his family was paramount in his life.

While I am in no way attempting to minimize the serious error in judgment to which Chris Collins has admitted, I would respectfully request that when imposing sentence Your

Honor take into account his many positive contributions in public life and the genuine respect he has earned and the high regard in which he is held by those who have worked with him and know him well.

I truly appreciate any consideration Your Honor can give to this request.

Very truly yours,



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress

PTK/am